

Remarks

Claims 42-56 are pending in the subject application. Applicants hereby reaffirm the election to prosecute the invention of Group I (claims 42-47), with traverse. By way of this amendment, claims 42-56 have been canceled and new claims 57-82 have been added (support for the new claims may be found, for example, in the previously presented claims and at page 5, last paragraph, page 10 and pages 18-19). Accordingly, claims 57-82 are currently before the Examiner and read on the elected invention. Favorable consideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

At the outset, Applicants respectfully submit that the restriction requirement set forth in this matter has been improperly set forth. As the Examiner is aware, this application is a national stage application and is subject to the unity of invention rules for restriction. The principles of unity of invention are used to determine the types of claimed subject matter and the combinations of claims to different categories of invention that are permitted to be included in a single international or national stage patent application. The basic principle is that an application should relate to only one invention or, if there is more than one invention, that applicant would have a right to include in a single application only those inventions which are so linked as to form a single general inventive concept. The expression "special technical features" is defined in PCT Rule 13.2 as meaning those technical features that define a contribution which each of the inventions, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art. Additionally, a group of inventions is considered linked to form a single general inventive concept where there is a technical relationship among the inventions that involves at least one common or corresponding special technical feature. The expression special technical features is defined as meaning those technical features that define the contribution which each claimed invention, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art. Applicants note that the restriction requirement mailed on April 13, 2008 fails to provide any evidence that the claimed invention fails to comply with the unity of invention rules, particularly as relates to SEQ ID NO: 2, the mature form of SEQ ID NO: 2 (SEQ ID NO: 3) and the polyhistidine tagged form of SEQ ID NO: 2 (SEQ ID NO: 4). Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the lack of unity holding is respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that the pending claims are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if clarification is needed or if the Examiner believes a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 CFR §§1.16 or 1.17 as required by this paper to Deposit Account No. 19-0065.

Respectfully submitted,



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